

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles, comprising characterized in that the carrier material is composed of an inorganic substrate which and is provided with at least one coating layer, each coating layer comprising at least one cured melamine-formaldehyde resin, and yields individually coated platelet-shaped carrier material particles or being composed of such a resin.

2. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 1, wherein characterized in that the inorganic substrate carrier material is selected from the group consisting of mica, silica flakes, glass flakes, pearlescent pigments, metal flakes or and metal foils.

3. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 1~~, wherein characterized in that the metal flakes or metal foils are composed of silver, copper, nickel, gold, aluminium or an alloy thereof alloys of these metals.

4. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 1, wherein characterized in that the inorganic substrate in addition has a metallic coating.

5. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 4, wherein characterized in that the metallic coating is composed of silver, copper, nickel, gold, aluminium or an alloy thereof alloys of these metals.

6. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 1, wherein characterized in that the cured melamine-formaldehyde resin comprises one or more organic or inorganic dyes

and/or one or more organic or inorganic UV absorbers, ~~the dyes being soluble in the medium in which the pigment is coated.~~

7. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein multiple coating layers are present and the one or more organic or inorganic dyes dye or dyes is or are present in one or more inner coating layers comprising melamine-formaldehyde resin and the one or more organic or inorganic UV absorber or absorbers is or are present in one or more outer coating layers comprising melamine-formaldehyde resin.~~

8. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 1, further comprising an additional layer applied to the outermost coating layer of the at least one coating layer, which additional layer comprises ~~characterized in that~~ substantially spherical cured melamine-formaldehyde resin particles which optionally comprise one or more dyes and/or one or more UV ~~W~~ absorbers ~~or else are free from dyes and/or UV absorbers are additionally applied to the outermost coating.~~

9. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the cured melamine-formaldehyde resin of the outermost coating layer of the at least one coating layer is modified with functional groups.

10. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the functional groups which modify the outermost coating layer are introduced by way of an amino-functional compound which in addition to the amino group contains one or more further functional groups ~~group~~, this amino-functional compound participating in a ~~the~~ polycondensation reaction between melamine and formaldehyde and being incorporated into the melamineformaldehyde network by way of the amino function, with the functional groups brought to the surface in this way and optionally being further modified ~~further where appropriate.~~

11. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the cured melamineformaldehyde resin of the outermost coating layer is ~~surface-functionalizing~~ modified with compounds reactive towards hydroxyl and/or amino groups by way of ~~the~~ methylolamine or amino groups present in the ~~said~~ resin.

12. (Currently Amended) Individually coated ~~Coated~~ platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 6, wherein the melamine-formaldehyde resin comprises ~~comprising~~ as dyes at least one fluorescent dye and one further, optionally fluorescent dye, the further dye being present in an amount which gives the pigment essentially no color ~~colour~~ or fluorescence when the further ~~this~~ dye is used alone.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for producing a singularly or multiply~~ A process for preparing individually coated platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to claim 1, comprising ~~characterized in that it comprises, in the case of a single coating layer, suspending a first step in which~~ an inorganic platelet-shaped substrate ~~is suspended in a basic aqueous medium[[5]] comprising melamine and formaldehyde and/or methylolmelamine methylolunelamine, which may optionally have been alkoxylated, and lowering the pH into the acidic range to bring about a second step in which~~ crosslinking of the organic constituents is brought about by lowering the pH into the acidic range, and, or, in the case of a multiple coating layers, repeating the above more than once with the same platelet-shaped carrier material particles~~first and second steps with the product of the preceding coating operation.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ some of the melamine is replaced by other crosslinking molecules selected from the group consisting of guanamines, phenols and ureas and/or some of the methylolmelamine ~~methylolunelamine~~ is replaced by corresponding guanamine, phenol or urea analogues.

15. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 13,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~, before the onset of or during crosslinking, organic or inorganic dyes and/or organic or inorganic UV absorbers are added.

16. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 15, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ dyes added comprise at least one fluorescent dye and one further, optionally fluorescent dye, the further dye being added in an amount which gives the pigment essentially no color ~~colour~~ or fluorescence when the further ~~this~~ dye is used alone.

17. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the lowering of the pH into the acidic range is brought about by oxidation of excess and/or unreacted formaldehyde and/or formaldehyde present in the methylolmelamines ~~methylolunelamines~~, by ~~means of~~ hydrogen peroxide.

18. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in a ~~the~~ final coating step, in addition to melamine and formaldehyde and/or methylolmelamine ~~methylolunelamine~~, an amino-functional compound which in addition to the amino group contains one or more functional groups participates in a ~~the~~ polycondensation reaction, the amino-functional compound being incorporated into the melamine-formaldehyde network by way of the amino function, and with the functional groups brought to the surface in this way and optionally being further modified ~~further where appropriate~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the cured melamineformaldehyde resin of the outermost coating layer of the at least one coating layer is reacted by way of the methylolamine or amino groups present on its surface with compounds which contain a group which is reactive towards hydroxyl and/or amino groups, in addition to one or more further functional groups.

20. (Currently Amended) A paint, varnish, printing ink, plastic composition or article, powder coating material, seed coloring, cosmetic composition or food pigmentation, comprising ~~Use of one or more of the~~ individually

coated platelet-shaped carrier ~~materials~~ material particles of Claim 1 as effect pigments in ~~paints, varnishes, printing inks, plastics, powder coating materials, for colouring seed, in cosmetic formulations and/or for pigmenting foods.~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to Claim 20 for the purpose of~~ A method for marking and/or coding a product comprising applying to said product individually coated platelet-shaped carrier material particles of Claim 1 products.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Compositions~~ An effect pigment composition or product marking or coding comprising individually coated platelet-shaped carrier ~~materials~~ material particles of Claim 1 as effect pigment.

23. (New) Individually coated platelet-shaped carrier material particles according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic substrate has immediately thereon a coating layer comprising at least one cured melamine-formaldehyde resin.

24. (New) An individually coated platelet-shaped carrier material particles prepared by a process comprising, in the case of a single coating layer, suspending inorganic platelet-shaped substrate in a basic aqueous medium comprising melamine and formaldehyde and/or methylolmelamine, which may optionally have been alkoxylated, and lowering the pH into the acidic range to bring about crosslinking of organic constituents or, in the case of a multiple coating layers, repeating the above more than once with the same platelet-shaped carrier material particles.